



Improving the Environment

Designing for the Future: Architecture and Quality of Life

The Architects' Council of Europe, of which the Kamra is an active member, is organising a conference titled "Designing for the Future: Architecture and Quality of Life" which will be held on the 10th April 2008 in Brussels at the Flagey Building. The Conference, which enjoys the patronage of Mr. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, is addressed



primarily at European leaders and decision makers from all levels, who act in matters relating to the built environment. It will present a number of ideas and concrete recommendations in relation to quality and planning that could be adopted and put in place very quickly.

The objectives of the Conference aim to:

- Promote qualitative developments through the adoption of diverse approaches during the conception and maintenance of the built environment, putting the citizen at the heart of all policies.
- Promote and manage policies that fully take the needs of sustainable development, territorial planning and effective, integrated management of the built environment into account.
- Notably include the cultural dimension of the built and urban environment without restricting it solely to heritage elements. The economic policies adopted by the European Union continue to cause distortion by their strictly limited point of view – and by not adequately taking account of environmental, social and cultural dimensions, which are the very essence of a truly shared European project. Many architects, citizens and an increasing number of political leaders are more and more convinced that the advantages of sustainable development in general and on a quality built environment in particular, are

key elements for the future of the European economy and society. However, this glaring fact is still not brought to the fore in the specification of construction and planning projects to the extent where assessments and budgetary decisions are too limited to a short-term view thus penalising the possibility to have truly sustainable works.

Perit David Felice is a member of the Organising Committee for this conference. Participation at this Conference is free, though registration is necessary. A delegation from the Kamra tal-Periti will be attending this event. We therefore invite all those interested in attending to contact the KTP Secretariat on:

secretary@ktpmalta.com for further information.

FEED 2007: Further Education of Energy and Design for Disability

The Kamra tal-Periti has been successful in acquiring funding through the European Union's Social Fund in order to carry out a project that will involve the organisation of two further education seminars, one on Energy and one on Design for Disability. These seminars will be held on the 30 April 2008.

The overriding theme for these two seminars is quality in the built environment. There are a number of ways through which such quality can be achieved, and two of these aspects will be dealt with during these two seminars.

The morning seminar will tackle the Energy Directive, its implementation and its impact on the local building scene. It will also look at some case studies and will try to address the way forward for the profession and the industry in this regard. A number of questions come to mind when discussing this issue, in particular those regarding the perit's responsibilities with respect to this matter. This seminar will attempt to address these issues and more.

The afternoon seminar will look into the aspect of Design for Disability. The KNPD's design guidelines in this regard have become

a standard reference in any perit's library. However many still perceive the requirements of these guidelines as constraints, rather than measures that can improve the quality of life of users of the buildings we design. This seminar will aim at providing participants with a better understanding of how persons with disability are hindered by the very design of our buildings, and why it is imperative to keep such considerations in mind at the early stages of the design process.

Participation at these events is free of charge. Further information will be available in the coming days on:

www.ktpmalta.com

Study on Liability and Insurance Regimes

The European Commission is currently preparing a Call for Tenders for the carrying out of a European study of liability and insurance regimes in the construction sector. The Architects' Council of Europe was invited to a stakeholder consultation on the matter at which it expressed its views on the subject and on its hopes for the outcome of the study. The ACE highlighted, among other things, the need to ensure that insurance policies truly protect the consumer interest, that all actors in the project team carry insurance appropriate to their input and that the law of the country in which the asset is constructed is the one that applies in case of dispute.

The Commission reported that the Study will survey the existing regimes in the Member States and that it will give an accurate overview of the situation in the EU. It also recalled that the Study is being undertaken in the context of earlier work in the 1990's on the Competitiveness of the Construction Sector and in the context of the requirements of the Directive on Services in the Internal Market.

BEAR

The Built Environment Action Register (BEAR) is a database of professionals willing to

volunteer
humanita
munities
for BEAR
at the AC
in respon
humanita
Architects
(France),
Architects
Centre to
volunteer
The BEAR
internatio
try-specifi
organizati
architects
profession
rebuilding
and resto
teers may
ments su
building
engineeri
project ma
sion, and
ties. To re
call-for-vo
Energy us
EN ISO
of buildin
for space
the key s
Performan
It is the o
in the EF
intends fu
as EN ISO
tion of ai
ing...". Thi
as a truly
within Eu
(ISO), has
ing withir
27 CEN M
ardisation
Bodies ap
Further in
www.bui